

Claims:-

1. A television system, said television system including a broadcast data receiver (BDR) (4) connected to or integrally formed with a display screen (6), said BDR (4) receiving digital data from a broadcaster at a remote location and decoding and processing said data to provide video, audio and/or auxiliary data relating to a number of channels and/or programmes, said BDR (4) having storage means for the selective processing and storage of said received data and characterised in that, transmission of data for one or more channels on which new and changing data is broadcast for a limited period of time in any given time period, is identified by the broadcast data receiver (4) and, in those time periods outside the given time period, an audio and/or video display is generated on the display screen (6) and/or via speakers for said one or more channels from data held in said storage means.

2. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that outside the given time periods a repeat signal is transmitted from the broadcaster at spaced intervals and the BDR (4) generates a display from data held in said storage means between said spaced intervals.

3. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the storage means is a hard disk drive (10) connected to or integrally formed with the BDR (4).

4. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the generated display is a fixed or static screen display.

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5. A television system according to claim 4 characterised in that the data for generating said fixed or static screen display is broadcast to the receiver on a single occasion in the given time period or outside the given time period for storage in said storage means.

6. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the generated display is a repeated video display.

7. A television system according to claim 6 characterised in that the repeated video display is transmitted and stored in the BDR (4) storage means at pre-determined time intervals.

8. A television system according to claim 6 characterised in that the repeated video display is transmitted to the BDR (4) on a single occasion in the given time period or outside the given time period for storage in said storage means.

9. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the BDR is able to monitor the user's viewing habits and/or programme preferences and, based on a pre-defined set of criteria, selects which channels to accept live data therefrom and which channels to generate a display from data stored in said storage means.

10. A broadcast data receiver (BDR), said BDR (4) connected to or integrally formed with a display screen (6), said BDR (4) receiving digital data from a broadcaster at a remote location and decoding and processing said data to provide video, audio and/or auxiliary data relating to a number of channels and/or programmes, said BDR (4) having storage means for the selective processing and storage of said received data and characterised in that,

transmission of data for one or more channels on which new and changing data is broadcast for a limited period of time in any given time period, is identified by the broadcast data receiver and, in those time periods outside the given time period, a video and/or audio display is generated on the display screen (6) and/or via speakers for said one or more channels from data held in said storage means.

11. A broadcast data receiver according to claim 10 characterised in that the generated display is a fixed or static screen display.
12. A broadcast data receiver according to claim 10 characterised in that the generated display is a repeated video display
13. A method of generating a display for a television system, said television system including a broadcast data receiver (BDR) (4) connected to or integrally formed with a display screen (6), said BDR (4) receiving digital data from a broadcaster at a remote location and decoding and processing said data to provide video, audio and/or auxiliary data relating to a number of channels and/or programmes, and characterised in that said method includes the steps of said BDR (4) identifying data relating to one or more channels on which new and changing data is broadcast for a limited period of time only in any given time period, said BDR (4) identifying time periods outside said given time period, and in those outside time periods, said BDR (4) retrieving data stored in storage means connected to or forming part of said BDR and generating a video and/or audio display on said display screen and/or via speakers for said one or more channels.

14. A method according to claim 13 characterised in that the BDR (4) generates a fixed or static screen display from data stored in said storage means.
15. A method according to claim 13 characterised in that the BDR (4) generates a repeated video display from data stored in said storage means.
16. A method according to claim 13 characterised in that the BDR (4) monitors the user's viewing habits and/or programme preferences and, based on a pre-defined set of criteria, selects which channels to accept live data therefrom and which channels to generate a display from data stored in said storage means.